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KIDSNET facilitates the collection and appropriate sharing of health data with healthcare providers, parents, MCH programs, and other child service providers for the provision of timely and appropriate preventive health services and follow up.

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KIDSNET welcomes new users: The office of Douglas Foreman, DO, North Smithfield and Nickerson Community Center schools.

Immunization and Vaccine Updates

2007 Enrollment Extension:

The Immunization Program is extending all current SSV enrollments until June 30, 2007. The new annual enrollment period will begin in April 2008 for the 2009 State Fiscal Year. The new annual enrollments will cover a one-year period of July 1-June 30. This change is being made for 2 primary reasons:

1. To provide more time for practices to enroll outside of the busy influenza season. .
2. To synchronize the provider enrollment period with the state fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).

Varicella vaccine:

Merck is experiencing delays in the delivery of varicella vaccine. Currently it takes 20 business days for delivery; practices should plan accordingly. Merck has stated that this delay should be reduced by the end of October.

Direct Distribution:

With the exception of varicella vaccine, all other routine pediatric vaccines are shipped and delivered to you through CDC's Direct Distribution program (McKesson is the distributor). Currently, the delivery may take from 4 business days (best case) to 15 business days (worst case) from the day the Immunization Program receives the provider's order. Orders placed on Thursday, Friday, or Monday have had the fastest turn around time.

Influenza Vaccine

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) emphasizes six major points for the 2007-2008-influenza season:

1. The importance of administering 2 doses of vaccine to all children aged 6 months-8 years if they have not been vaccinated previously.
2. **New recommendation:** Children aged 6 months-8 years who have previously received only 1 dose of influenza vaccine should receive 2 doses the following year. See algorithm for dosing: www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/pdf/flu_vaccine_algorithm.pdf.
3. All persons, including school-aged children, who want to reduce the risk of becoming ill with influenza or of transmitting influenza to others, should be vaccinated.

4. Providers should offer influenza vaccine and schedule immunization clinics throughout the influenza season (Oct-March).
5. Healthcare administrators should consider the level of vaccination coverage among healthcare personnel (HCP) to be one measure of a patient safety quality program and implement policies to encourage HCP vaccination.
6. The 2007-2008 trivalent vaccine strains are A/Solomon Islands/3/2006 (H1N1)-like (new for this season), A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)-like, and B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like viruses.

For more comprehensive influenza vaccination information for health professionals visit:

www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/index.htm.

CDC's 2007-2008 Influenza Vaccine Dosage Chart is available at:

www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/pdf/dosagechart.pdf.

New information about FluMist (live attenuated influenza vaccine-LAIV)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved FluMist for use in healthy children ages 2-4 years (i.e. 24-59 months). CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is expected to release their formal recommendations for use in this age group on or soon after October 24, 2007. Guidelines for use of state-supplied FluMist in the 2-4 year age group will be communicated to you at that time. For now, continue to use FluMist for healthy people ages 5-49.

Additional changes for use of FluMist include:

- A reduction in the volume of vaccine used to 0.1 mL per nostril.
- A reduction in the minimum dose spacing to 4 weeks for children who require 2 doses (same as injectable flu vaccine).
- A change in the temperature requirements: **DO NOT FREEZE**. Store in refrigerator at 35-46°F (2--8°C).

Pediatric Flu Vaccine Orders

For questions about your pediatric flu vaccine order, contact Mark Francesconi at 222.5988 or mark.francesconi@health.ri.gov

Immunize For Life Adult Flu Program

The influenza vaccine is currently being shipped to all providers/facilities who enrolled in the adult flu program. However, the Department of Health is requesting that no one administer a flu shot before October 17th, the official "kick-off" date. For information and forms for the program, please visit www.health.ri.gov and click in the Immunize For Life Facts and Forms box on the right-hand side.

Immunization Report

In September 2007, the following 8 practices sent immunization history updates for KIDSNET after running the immunization report: **Westerly Pediatrics, Family Doctors of East Providence, Spectrum Family Health Care, PRIMA, Mill River Pediatrics, Everett Wilcox Center, Kingstown Pediatrics, and Dr. Charles DeAngelis.**

Lead Screening Report

Please continue to use KIDSNET to generate reports of children in your practice who have never been screened for lead poisoning. In September 2007, the following 15 pediatric practices used this report: **Dr. Tayna Becker, Broadway Medical Treatment Center, Cumberland Pediatrics, Chad Brown Health Center, Dr. Cheryl Flynn, Everett Wilcox Center, Family Treatment Center, Dr. Polly Leonard, Northwest Health Center, Physicians of RI Med Enterprise, Dr. Jennifer Souther, Spectrum Health Care, Tri-Town Health Center, West Warwick Thundermist Health Center, and Westerly Pediatrics.**

If you need a training review to use this report, contact your KIDSNET representative or call the KIDSNET Help Desk at 1.800.942.7434. Thank you for your help in ensuring all children are appropriately screened for lead!

Keep up the good work! Please keep using the reports as a tool to follow up on your patients need.